

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Submitted herewith is a replacement sheet for Fig. 12a incorporating a revision to identify the width of the microscopic aperture 84 with the letter w.

REMARKS

The present application is a Rule 114 Request for Continued Examination (RCE) of parent application Serial No. 09/762,075 filed February 1, 2001. In the parent application, the PTO issued a notice of allowance dated June 28, 2004 allowing claims 1-20. After allowance of the application, it was noted that amendments are required in allowed independent claim 12 to correctly define the subject matter of the invention.

By the present RCE, applicants submit this preliminary amendment amending independent claim 12 to correctly define the subject matter of the invention. Page 63 of the specification has been suitably revised to provide literal antecedence for the language in amended claim 12. Submitted herewith is a replacement sheet for Fig. 12a incorporating a revision to identify the width of the microscopic aperture 84 with the letter w to conform the drawings to the amended specification and amended claim 12.

Early and favorable action on the merits are most respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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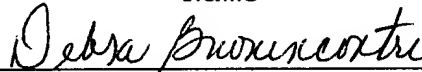
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MAILING CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS NON-FEE, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

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Signature

September 27, 2004

Date